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BOROUGH OF NELSON

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health
1940

R. G. MARKHAM, M.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.



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BOROUGH OF NELSON

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

ALDERMAN R. BLAND (Chairman).
COUNCILLOR H. HAYTHORNTHWAITE (Vice-Chairman).
THE MAYOR (ALDERMAN W. BANNISTER).

ALDERMAN R. J. HUSBAND
,, A. SMITH
,, H. W. THROUP
COUNCILLOR E. ASHWORTH
,, A. DOLLIMORE
,, W. H. HINDLE
,, S. JACKSON
,, W. PENNINGTON
,, S. SHAW
,, D. J. SPEAK
,, MISS N. TURNER
,, H. H. URSELL
,, J. WIDDUP

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

ALDERMAN R. BLAND (Chairman).
THE MAYOR (ALDERMAN W. BANNISTER).

ALDERMAN A. SMITH
,, H. W. THROUP
COUNCILLOR E. ASHWORTH
,, A. DOLLIMORE
,, H. HAYTHORNTHWAITE
,, W. H. HINDLE
,, S. SHAW
,, MISS N. TURNER
MRS. WESTWELL
MISS S. E. WHITTAKER

Officers of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health R. G. MARKHAM, M.B., D.P.H. †
G. J. Roberts, M.D., B.Sc., D.P.H.°
Chief Sanitary Inspector J. W. INGHAM
Assistant Inspector S. GRINDROD
Assistant Inspector and Chief Clerk S. HAYDOCK
Clerk A. WILDMAN
Housing Records Supervisor N. GRIFFITHS†
Health Visitors ... Miss B. E. EDMONDSON, Mrs. B. WILKINSON,
and Mrs. A. H. FRANKLAND*
Matron, Maternity Home Miss I. BARKER

‡Died 16th February, 1941. °Commenced 5th August, 1941. †On active service.
*Part-time.

LIST OF LOCAL AND ADOPTED SANITARY ACTS ADMINISTERED BY THE COUNCIL.

- Nelson Water and Gas Act, 1866.
 Nelson Local Board Act, 1879.
 Nelson Improvement Act, 1886.
 Nelson Local Board Act, 1888.
 Nelson Corporation Act, 1903.
 Nelson Provisional Orders, 1871, 1873, 1876, 1890, 1895, 1897,
 1899, 1904.
 Borough of Nelson (Extension) Order, 1897.
 The Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889.
 The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, adopted 1891.
 The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890, adopted 1896.
 The Notification of Births Act, 1907, adopted 1911.
 The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, parts adopted
 1912.
 The Nelson Corporation Act, 1921.
 The Public Health Act, 1925, except Sections 15 and 35.
-

LIST OF BYELAWS RELATING TO SANITARY MATTERS IN FORCE IN THE BOROUGH.

Date of Adoption.

1890—Common Lodging Houses.

1897—Offensive Trades :—

Blood Boiler.

Blood Drier.

Bone Boiler.

Fellmonger.

Tanner.

Leather Dresser.

Soap Boiler.

Tallow Melter.

Fat Melter.

Tripe Boiler.

Glue Maker.

Size Maker.

Gut Scraper.

1897—Nuisances.

1897 & 1907—Slaughter Houses.

1911—Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Regulations.

1912—Sanitary Conveniences.

1926—New Streets and Buildings.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

21, CARR ROAD, NELSON.

DECEMBER, 1941.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1940. The Report is the record of the health and sanitary conditions of the borough during the late Dr. R. G. Markham's period of office; his death in February of this year accounts for the delay in its presentation. As in the case of the School Medical Report I wish to acknowledge the valuable assistance and loyal co-operation of the members of the staff of the department in the preparation of this Report, which the Ministry of Health requests should be as brief as possible.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. J. ROBERTS,

Medical Officer of Health.

OBITUARY.

It is a sorrow to record the death of Dr. R. G. Markham in February, 1941. He was appointed Medical Officer of Health for the borough in 1920 and was the first to hold that office in a whole-time capacity; on his appointment the Public Health Department, which previously incorporated the cleansing services, relinquished the administration of the latter department which now functions as an independent unit. This change involved considerable re-organisation and also the provision of new premises, including for the first time a small public health laboratory.

During Dr. Markham's term of office the work of the department expanded considerably and especially in relation to housing and maternity and child welfare. The earlier arrangement for providing accommodation for maternity cases was superseded by the conversion of "Fern Lea" into a municipal maternity home under the full control of the Council.

Dr. Markham's death was deeply regretted by all members of the department; his wide professional knowledge, ready advice and wise guidance ensured the harmonious working of the public health service.

By a sad coincidence Dr. Ritchie, Dr. Markham's predecessor as Medical Officer of Health of Nelson, also died in 1940; he was a part-time official of this Authority and it was during his appointment that the local Maternity and Child Welfare Services first took shape.

1.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres	3,466
Population. Census 1931	38,306
Registrar-General's estimate of	
(a) Resident population mid 1940	33,520
(b) Average population appropriate to	
the calculation of death rates	33,520
Number of inhabited houses—(a) Census 1931	11,128
(b) End of 1940	
according to rate	
books	11,748
Rateable value	£238,742
Sum represented by a penny rate	£910.509

Changes in population have occurred due to Service requirements and migration elsewhere to work of national importance. The absorption of workers into industry has been much more marked than in previous years.

METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS.

RAINFALL.

Records are kept of the rainfall as registered by five rain gauges, three of these being in the proximity of the reservoirs, one in Victoria Park and one at the Meteorological Station in the Cemetery grounds.

The annual figures in inches are :—Ogden Reservoir, 45.27, Coldwell No. 1 Reservoir 35.25, Coldwell No. 2 Reservoir 41.14, Victoria Park 40.81; Meteorological Station 38.68.

Detailed records from the readings taken at the Meteorological Station show that there were 219 days on which there was precipitation, that the greatest fall in one day was 1.36

inches (16th September) that November was the wettest month, rain falling on 25 days with a total of 6.76 inches, and that June was the driest month with a total of 0.79 inches spread over 9 days.

BRIGHT SUNSHINE.

Bright sunshine was recorded on 276 days, 1277.9 hours being registered, giving a daily average of 3.5 hours. The highest amount of bright sunshine registered in any one day was 15.4 hours; this occurred both on the 5th and the 9th of June.

TEMPERATURES.

Maximum and Minimum readings for the year show :—

Highest maximum temperature...	82.4° on 7th June.
Lowest ,, ,, ...	23.4° on 20th January.
Highest minimum ,, ...	56.2° on 29th June.
Lowest ,, ,, ...	5.0° on 21st January.
Mean temperature for the year ...	46.3°
Lowest temperature on the grass	Minus 5.0° on 21st January
Highest solar radiation reading	134.2° on the 19th June

The beginning of the year was marked by a period of exceptionally cold weather and temperatures were recorded lower than any previous readings since the Meteorological Station was established.

2.—VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

(Figures supplied by the Registrar-General).

Total number of Live Births	335
Legitimate—Male	176
Female	142
Illegitimate—Male	6
Female	11
Total number of Still Births	11
Legitimate—Male	5
Female	5
Illegitimate—Male	—
Female	1

BIRTH RATES.

These are calculated on an estimated population of 33,520.

Corrected Birth Rate per 1000 of population	9.6
Legitimate Birth (live)	9.2
Illegitimate Birth (live)	0.4
Legitimate Birth (still births)	0.29
Illegitimate Birth (still births)	0.03
Legitimate Birth (live and still births)	9.5
Illegitimate Birth (live and still births)	0.5
Total Birth (live and still births)	10.0
Still Birth	0.3

Compared with 1939 the Live Birth Rate shows an increase of 1.5 and the Still Birth Rate a decrease of 0.1 per 1000 of the population. There were 53 more live births registered in 1940 than in 1939.

DEATHS.

Total number of Deaths in Nelson	406
Number of Deaths of non-residents	10
Number of Deaths of residents occurring outside the borough	134
Total Deaths allocated to Nelson	530
Crude Death Rate calculated on population of 33,520 ...	15.8
Adjusted Death Rate (*Comparability Factor 0.91)	14.4

*In order to measure the mortality experienced by one district against that of other areas an adjustment is made so as to equalise the proportions of the sex and age group components of the population, this being effected by the employment of a Comparability Factor, a figure supplied by the Registrar-General. Thus the adjusted death rate is the crude death rate multiplied by the Comparability Factor.

ANALYSIS OF DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS.

Age in Years	Deaths in Nelson		Outward Tra'sfers		Inward Tra'sfers		Nett	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	8	6	...	...	4	1	12	7
Over 1 and under 5	3	2	...	1	...	...	3	1
" 5 " 10	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
" 10 " 15	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
" 15 " 20	1	1	...	...	1	2	2	3
" 20 " 30	1	3	...	...	1	1	2	4
" 30 " 40	6	7	1	1	...	7	5	13
" 40 " 50	13	8	...	...	9	4	22	12
" 50 " 60	30	27	1	2	12	10	41	35
" 60 " 70	65	57	1	1	22	18	86	74
" 70 " 80	60	63	...	2	13	16	73	77
" 80 " 90	16	25	...	...	7	6	23	31
" 90 " 95	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	1
	206	200	3	7	69	65	272	258
Totals.....	406		10		134		530	

It may be noted that 38% of the deaths were of persons of 70 years of age or over.

ANALYSIS OF DEATHS IN MONTHLY PERIODS.

Month	Deaths in Nelson	Outward Transfers	Inward Transfers	Nett Deaths for Nelson	Equivalent to Annual Death Rate of
Jan.....	56	1	16	71	25·4
Feb.....	53	...	11	64	22·9
Mar. ...	53	...	14	67	23·9
April ..	30	...	12	42	15·0
May.....	33	1	12	44	15·7
June ...	33	2	13	44	15·7
July.....	26	...	9	35	12·5
Aug. ...	25	...	12	37	13·2
Sept. ...	24	1	7	30	10·7
Oct.....	25	2	12	35	12·5
Nov. ...	20	1	10	29	10·3
Dec	28	2	6	32	11·4

INFANT DEATHS.

There were 19 deaths of infants under one year of age giving an Infant Mortality Rate for the year of 56 per 1000 births. This is a decrease of 22 on the Infant Mortality Rate for 1939.

Analysis of the ages at death shows that 7 occurred within 2 hours of birth, 1 on the 4th day, 2 in the 3rd week and 1 in the 4th week; a total of 11 or 58% within the first month of life (Neonatal Mortality).

There were two deaths between the ages of one and three months, one between the ages of four and six months, four between the ages of six and nine months and one between the ages of nine and twelve months.

Analysis of the causes of death shows 8 to be due to prematurity, 2 to congenital malformation, 5 to chest diseases, 1 to tubercular disease and 3 to other causes.

MATERNAL DEATHS.

There were two maternal deaths during the year, both of which occurred from causes other than puerperal sepsis. This represents a Maternal Mortality Rate for the year of 5.95 per 1000 total births (live and still births). In 1939 the corresponding Maternal Mortality Rate was 10.17.

CAUSES OF DEATH WITH CORRESPONDING RATES.

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total	Death Rate
All Causes	272	258	530	15.811
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers...	—	—	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	1	2	0.059
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	7	6	13	0.387
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	2	—	2	0.059
8. Syphilitic Disease	4	3	7	0.208
9. Influenza	4	3	7	0.208
10. Measles	—	—	—	—
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	—	—	—	—
12. Acute Infectious Encephalitis	—	1	1	0.029
13M. Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (Males Only)	5	—	5	0.149
13F. Cancer of Uterus	—	3	3	0.089
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	6	10	16	0.477
15. Cancer of Breast	—	3	3	0.089
16. Cancer of all other sites	10	15	25	0.745
17. Diabetes	1	8	9	0.268
18. Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions ...	30	36	66	1.968
19. Heart Disease	67	61	128	3.818
20. Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	7	7	14	0.417
21. Bronchitis	34	34	68	2.028
22. Pneumonia	7	2	9	0.268
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	3	5	8	0.238
24. Ulceration of the Stomach or Duodenum	2	—	2	0.059
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)...	—	—	—	—
26. Appendicitis	3	—	3	0.089
27. Other Digestive Diseases	11	7	18	0.537
28. Nephritis	12	11	23	0.686
29. Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis	—	—	—	—
30. Other Maternal Causes	—	2	2	0.059
31. Premature Birth	5	3	8	0.238
32. Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease	2	—	2	0.059
33. Suicide	8	2	10	0.298
34. Road Traffic Accidents	1	—	1	0.029
35. Other Violent Causes	11	6	17	0.507
36. All Other Causes	29	29	58	1.730

An examination of the above table reveals that heart disease is the commonest cause with a rate of 3.82 per 1,000 of population, bronchitis coming next with a rate of 2.03. The total number of deaths from malignant disease was 52, a rate of 1.55.

During the year there were 195 more deaths than births, as against 145 in 1939.

The Registrar-General has submitted figures given in the following table :—

	England and Wales.	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns. Resident Population of 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census.	London	Nelson.
RATES PER 1000 CIVILIAN POPULATION					
Live Births	14.6	16.0	15.7	13.7	9.6
Still Births	0.55	0.64	0.55	0.44	0.32
Deaths :					
All Causes	14.3	15.8	12.8	17.8	15.8
Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	0.06	0.07	0.05	0.01	0.00
Influenza	0.32	0.29	0.30	0.18	0.21
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00
RATES PER 1000 LIVE BIRTHS					
Deaths under one year of age	55	61	54	50	56
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis, under 2 years of age	4.6	5.9	4.4	5.8	0.00

A comparison of the Birth, Death and Infant Mortality Rates for 1940 as against 1939 is shown hereunder, increase or decrease being shown by + or — sign :—

	Live Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
England and Wales	—0.4	+2.2	+5
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns	+1.2	+3.8	+8
148 Smaller Towns	+0.1	+1.6	+14
London (administrative County)	+1.4	+5.9	+2
Nelson	+1.5	+0.6	—22

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

There is no change to report in this service.

LABORATORY SERVICE.

A small Public Health Laboratory is maintained at the Public Health Offices. Specimens from local practitioners for diagnostic purposes are dealt with and chemical and bacteriological examination of milk is carried out.

In addition, the Corporation has an arrangement with the Clinical Research Association to whom certain specimens are sent.

DOMICILIARY NURSING.

Arrangements are made through the Medical Officer of Health for the attendance of a District Nurse in certain cases of measles, ophthalmia neonatorum and puerperal pyrexia; a fee is paid to the District Nursing Association according to the number of visits paid in addition to an annual contribution. There have been two applications for nursing assistance during the year.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

The following is a list of the Clinic and Treatment Centres available to Nelson residents.

- | | |
|---|---|
| (a) Maternity and Child Welfare Centre. | Provided by the Local Authority, and situated in Carr Road. A weekly session is held on Wednesday afternoon. |
| (b) Ante-Natal Centre. | Provided by the Local Authority, and held at the Infant Welfare Centre, 9 Carr Road, Nelson. Two sessions weekly: Monday, 2-0 to 4-0 p.m., and Thursday, 2-0 to 4-0 p.m. |
| (c) Day Nursery. | None, but a Nursery School for children under 5 years of age has been provided by the Education Authority. The premises originally built as a Nursery School are not being so used at present, the school being now located at the former Open Air School, Walton Lane. |
| (d) School Clinic. | Provided by the Local Authority, situated in Carr Road, and open daily. |

- | | |
|---|--|
| (e) Orthopædic Clinic. | Provided co-jointly by the Local Authority and the County Council. Weekly session held at the School Clinic on Friday. |
| (f) Tuberculosis Dispensary. | Provided by the County Council and situated at 64 Carr Road, Nelson; artificial sunlight treatment is available. |
| (g) Venereal Diseases Treatment Centre. | Provided by the County Council and situated at the Victoria Hospital, Burnley. |

HOSPITALS IN THE DISTRICT.

(a) There is no Public Assistance Hospital within the Borough, the institution for the area being at Burnley.

(b) Reedyford War Memorial Hospital, Nelson, is the local voluntary hospital.

(c) The Fern Lea Maternity Home, Nelson, provided by the Local Council, has provision for 10 beds.

(d) No institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate children or homeless children is provided within the borough.

THE NURSING HOMES REGISTRATION ACT, 1927.

There are no premises within the borough registered under the above Act.

3.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

There has been no new source of public supply during the year. The water is derived from two gathering grounds, one four miles distant on the east side of the town supplying Coldwell Reservoirs and one four miles distant on the west side of the town supplying Ogden Reservoirs.

Lower Coldwell Reservoirs:—altitude 943 feet, capacity 80,000,000 gallons; Upper Coldwell Reservoir:—altitude 990 feet, capacity 43,500,000 gallons. Nature of water—good, very slightly hard; filtration—4 “ Bell ” pressure filters, followed by chlorination treatment.

Ogden Reservoirs :—No. 1, altitude 989 feet, capacity 54,500,000 gallons; No. 3, altitude 837 feet, capacity 157,500,000 gallons. Nature of water—good, soft; filtration—12 “ Bell ” vertical pressure filters and 2 “ Paterson ” horizontal pressure filters, followed by chloramine treatment.

Ridgaling Service Reservoir :—Altitude 755 feet; capacity 5,000,000 gallons.

Waidshouse Service Reservoir :—Altitude 718 feet; capacity 2,000,000 gallons.

The total storage capacity of the reservoirs is approximately 160 days' supply.

The average daily consumption of water is 2,136,183 gallons which includes the compensation water discharge from the Coldwell reservoir. The daily consumption per head of population in the area of supply was 42.9 gallons.

Routine tests are carried out by the Water Engineer to note the purity of the supply, and in addition samples are submitted at regular intervals for complete analysis and examination.

There was no curtailment of the supply during 1940.

5 rows of houses were dealt with during the year to replace old joint service pipes by new mains with separate service pipes to each house. Since the inception of this scheme 412 rows of houses have been dealt with.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There has been no change during the year.

Nature of drainage of district, water carriage; situation of Sewage Works, Linedred; mode of delivery of sewage at Works, high level gravitating sewer. (Sewage from low-lying district of Lomeshaye is carried by a low-level sewer which is emptied into the high level sewer by means of automatic ejectors at the Works).

Treatment	Biological
Dry weather flow	1,750,000 gallons per day
Detritus tanks, total capacity	44,754 gallons
Storm tanks, total capacity	448,319 gallons
Percolating filters, total capacity	25,831 cubic yards
Sedimentation tanks, total capacity	1,036,888 gallons
Humus tanks, total capacity	1,263,000 gallons

No area is without a drainage system. Drain-testing, flushing, etc., is carried out by the Corporation staff when necessary.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The provisions of the Rivers Pollution Acts are administered by the Ribble Joint Committee.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

No. of Privy Middens (in town)	1
No. of Pail Closets	46
No. of Fresh Water Closets	4,786
No. of Waste Water Closets	7,929
No. of Dry Ashpits, excluding Middens	20
No. of Portable Receptacles for Refuse	12,320
Conversions during the year :—	
No. of Privies or Privy Middens (on outskirts of town) converted to Fresh Water Closets	Nil
No. of Pail Closets to Fresh Water Closets	Nil
No. of Waste Water Closets to Fresh Water Closets	45
No. of Houses at which Portable Ashbins have been substituted for Ashpits	Nil

In all new property Fresh Water Closet accommodation and Portable Ashbins are now being provided.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The arrangements are as outlined in last year's Report. The Director of Public Cleansing furnishes the following figures with reference to removal and disposal of house and shop refuse :—

Weight of refuse received for disposal	7,001 tons
Weight of refuse collected by own vehicles	6,653 tons
Weight of ashbin refuse removed	5,515 tons
Weight of trade refuse removed	867 tons
Weight of garbage removed	184 tons
No. of 10,000 sq. yards of streets swept (machines)	2,190
No. of gullies cleansed by mechanical gully cleanser	15,863
No. of applications received for opening drains, etc.	698

SANITARY INSPECTIONS DURING 1940.

3,106 premises have been visited during the year; 218 defects or nuisances were discovered and at the end of the year 210 of these had been remedied or abated. In no case was legal action necessary, informal action (87 verbal and 33 written informal notices) having sufficed to effect the necessary work.

Details of the inspections and results were :

No. of complaints of nuisances received and investigated	94
„ premises in general inspected or visited	1,581
„ inspections—Stables	88
„ „ Licensed Premises	25
„ „ Offensive Trades	Nil
„ „ Slaughter Houses	54
„ „ Bakehouses	128
„ „ re Water Supply	9
„ „ Meat Stalls	221
„ „ Workshops	63
„ „ Factories	202
„ „ Dairies and Cowsheds	90
„ „ Housing	781
„ „ Caravans	9
„ visits—infectious diseases and contacts	207
„ structural defects found	55
„ drainage defects found	17
„ lack of cleanliness found	19
„ offensive accumulations found	6
„ defective waste-pipes found	10
„ defective waste water closets	17
„ defective water closets	79
„ defective drains found	15
„ Verbal Notices given	87
„ Informal Notices sent	33
„ Informal and Verbal Notices complied with	116
„ Legal Notices sent	Nil
„ Legal Notices complied with	Nil
„ Legal proceedings	Nil
„ Smoke observations	19
„ insufficient W. C. accommodation	Nil

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

The inspection of shops is carried out by the Market Superintendent (also Shops Inspector) and in matters relating to sanitary conveniences co-ordination exists between the Shops Inspector and the Sanitary Inspectors.

CAMPING SITES.

There are no camping sites in the town, and no application for a licence has been made.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

During the first half of the year 19 observations were taken but in no instance was the smoke emission excessive. Latterly, following receipt of a Ministry of Home Security Circular, there has been a divergence of procedure.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There is one covered Public Bath containing male and female swimming pools and one Open Air Swimming Pool, at each of which filtration and water purification plants are installed.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Disinfestation procedure is as described in previous reports, 30 houses (involving 102 rooms) having been disinfested and in addition, two houses were treated with 2% hydrogen cyanide gas by arrangement between the owner and the private firm carrying out such work.

SCHOOLS.

The general sanitary condition of the schools remains satisfactory and all are supplied with town's water. No closure of a school has been necessary during the year.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no premises in Nelson used for these purposes.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Number of Factories with mechanical power	267
Number of Factories without mechanical power	61
Number of inspections	
(a) Factories with mechanical power	277
(b) Factories without mechanical power	113
Number of defects found during inspections	25
Number of defects notified by H.M. Inspector of Factories (included in above)	6
Nature of defects found :—	
Defective drains	2
Defective Sanitary Accommodation	12
Unsuitable Sanitary Accommodation	4
Lack of Cleanliness	3
Insufficient Sanitary Accommodation	3
Insufficient heating	—
Other defects	2
Number of verbal notices given	15
Number of informal notices sent	5
Number of legal notices	1

CANAL BOATS ACT.

The Council is exempt from the administration of the Canal Boats Act owing to the short length of canal within the boundaries.

RAG FLOCK ACTS, 1911 AND 1928.

There are no premises in which rag flock is manufactured or used.

4.—HOUSING.

STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total [including numbers given separately under (b)]	4
1. By the Local Authority	None
2. By other Local Authorities	None
3. By other bodies or persons	4
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :	
1. By the Local Authority	None
2. By other bodies or persons	None

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

There has been little change in the housing conditions, only four new houses having been completed (private enterprise). Towards the end of the year the number of evacuees, official and otherwise, was increasing, one effect being to diminish the number of empty houses.

In course of housing inspection the defects found were usually of a minor nature and although informal action sufficed to remove the defects the shortage of labour and materials delayed their remedy.

Changes in tenancy are shown by 487 incomings, 386 outgoings, 1,317 removals from house to house within the town and 76 new tenancies. No complaint of overcrowding has been received.

No Housing Scheme has been prepared during the year and the total number of houses erected by the Local Authority under the Housing Schemes remains at 1,175.

CLEARANCE AND IMPROVEMENT AREAS.

No reports or recommendations have been made during the year. The completion of demolition of houses in the small clearance areas is in abeyance.

5.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

The register of dairymen and cowkeepers is amended as changes occur.

There are 29 registered dairy farms in the borough and 16 dairymen other than cowkeepers are registered as milk purveyors. In addition a quantity of milk (produced on farmsteads in the adjoining areas) is retailed in the town.

A routine inspection of farm premises is carried out by a veterinary inspector who also advises on structural alterations and supervises any work carried out relating thereto.

Examination of the dairy herds is carried out periodically by a veterinary inspector appointed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Only one farmstead in the borough is licensed for the production of designated milk, in this case Certified T.T. This milk is sold wholesale.

Certified T.T. or Accredited milk (produced on farms situated in adjoining areas) is retailed within the borough, licences for such production being issued by the Lancashire County Council.

There are no pasteurising plants in the town but limited supplies of pasteurised milk are obtainable. Fewer routine examinations of milk have been undertaken than in previous years and during the year 95 samples have been dealt with at the Public Health Department's Laboratory with the following results :—

MILK FAT.

Number of samples tested	95
Number found to be of standard quality	93
Number found below standard quality	2
Average amount of Milk Fat per sample	3.47%

MILK SOLIDS.

Number of samples tested	64
Number found of standard quality	64
Average amount of total solids per sample	12.18%
Average amount of solids not fat per sample	8.71%

VISIBLE CLEANLINESS.

Number of samples tested	95
Number found satisfactory	92
Number found capable of improvement	3

COLIFORM BACILLI.

Number of samples tested	64
Number of samples of designated milk showing coliform bacilli in 0.01 c.c.	Nil
Number of samples of non-designated milk showing coliform bacilli in 0.01 c.c.	9
Percentage of total samples with coliform bacilli present	14
Percentage of non-designated samples with coliform bacilli present	18

TUBERCLE BACILLI.

Number of samples tested	47
Number found positive	1
Percentage of positive samples	2.1

When a positive result is shown, particulars are forwarded to the Lancashire County Council, who in turn inform the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Inspectors under the latter Authority undertake the investigations for the elimination of the infected animals.

BACTERIAL COUNT.

No. of samples tested	64
No. of samples with less than 10,000 bacteria per c.c.	9
do. with over 10,000 but under 50,000 per c.c. ...	26
do. do. 50,000 do. 100,000 do. ...	16
do. do. 100,000 do. 150,000 do. ...	9
do. do. 150,000 do. 200,000 do. ...	3
do. do. 600,000 do. 700,000 do. ...	1

METHYLENE BLUE REDUCTION TEST.

No. of samples tested	66
No. in which methylene blue was reduced in 2 hours	Nil
do. do. under $4\frac{1}{2}$ but over 2 hours	2
do. do. under $5\frac{1}{2}$ but over $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours	6
do. do. was not reduced in $5\frac{1}{2}$ hours	61
Number of samples which satisfied test	62
Percentage of samples satisfying test	94

COMBINED RESULT METHYLENE BLUE TEST AND
BACTERIOLOGICAL TEST.

A.—DESIGNATED MILK.

	No of Bacteria per c.c.	Coliform Bacilli	
		absent in 0.01 c.c.	present in 0.01 c.c.
Methylene Blue reduced in $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours but not in 2 hours.	Over 100,000 but under 150,000	1	—
	Over 150,000 „ „ 200,000	1	—
Methylene Blue reduced in $5\frac{1}{2}$ hours but not in $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours.		1	—
	Over 50,000 but under 100,000		
Methylene Blue not reduced in $5\frac{1}{2}$ hours	{ Under 10,000	6	—
	{ Over 10,000 but under 50,000	3	—
	{ „ 50,000 „ „ 100,000	1	—
	{ „ 100,000 „ „ 150,000	1	—

B.—NON-DESIGNATED MILK.

Methylene Blue reduced in $5\frac{1}{2}$ hours but not in $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours	Winter months :		
	Over 100,000 but under 150,000	1	—
	Over 150,000 „ „ 200,000	—	1
	Summer months :		
	Over 10,000 but under 50,000	1	—
Methylene Blue not reduced in $5\frac{1}{2}$ hours	„ 100,000 „ „ 150,000	2	—
	„ 600,000 „ „ 700,000	—	1
	Under 10,000	3	—
	Over 10,000 but under 50,000	22	1
	„ 50,000 „ „ 100,000	9	4
	„ 100,000 „ „ 150,000	4	1
	„ 150,000 „ „ 200,000	—	1

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

No slaughtering has been carried out in the town since controlled slaughtering came into operation; up to the time of the change there were 11 licensed slaughter-houses in Nelson. Routine inspection of shops, stalls and vehicles where meat or prepared food is sold has continued.

In the course of inspection 4 pig heads, 1 bovine and 2 sheep livers were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

The following food was submitted for examination, found to be unfit for human consumption and certified accordingly :—

Cod fish	18½ lbs.
Haddock	17½ lbs.
Halibut	7 lbs.
Bacon	284 lbs.
Beef	205 lbs.
Ox tongue (1 tin)	9 lbs.
Pork	45½ lbs.
Turkey (one)	13 lbs.

No legal proceedings have been instituted during the year.

Bacteriological and chemical examination in connection with a death due to suspected food poisoning failed to confirm the latter as the cause of death.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

In April the administration of the Food and Drugs Acts was transferred voluntarily to the Lancashire County Health Department. Prior to this samples were obtained by the County Police officers and submitted to the County Analyst, the following being a list of samples taken by them for analysis (all genuine) up to the time of transfer :

Milk	30
Olive Oil	1
Tea	1

Coffee	1
Pickles	1
Canned Milk	1
Flour	1
Canned Beans	1
Lancashire Cheese	1
Raspberry Jam	1
Oatmeal	1

6.—PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Hospital provision is as reported in 1939

There have been 209 notifications, an increase of 117 on last year and largely due to notifications of measles and whooping cough (compulsorily notifiable from November, 1939). An analysis of the notifications appears later, the outstanding feature of which is the small number of cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria notified during the year. The analysis also shows the number of cases which were removed to hospital, 15 in all. It may be noted that of 5 cases diagnosed as cerebro-spinal fever removed to hospital, two were not regarded as sufficiently definite clinically to warrant notification (being removed for observation only) and subsequently neither diagnosis was confirmed.

Comparative figures of cases notified in 1940 and 1939 and the annual average for the previous 10 years are shown in the following table :—

Disease.	Number notified in 1940	Number notified in 1939	Average Annual number of Notifications 1930-1939
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	12	10	62.5
Enteric Fever	1	1	0.5
Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia	2	2	2.6
Diphtheria	3	4	22.0
Erysipelas	23	14	13.2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	—	1.8
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	—	0.1
Acute Polio-encephalitis	—	—	0.3
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	0.7
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	3	—	0.2
Pneumonia	27	20	30.0
Malaria	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Measles	39	—	—
Whooping Cough	51	7	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	26	16	24.7
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	16	18	17.9
Totals.	209	92	176.5

Diphtheria antitoxin (in phials of 8,000 units) is kept at the Police Station and is available to local practitioners at all times.

There has been no addition to the list of notifiable diseases during the year. German measles, chickenpox or diarrhoea (under 2 years) are not notifiable locally.

When possible, pathological and bacteriological examinations are carried out at the Local Authority's Public Health Laboratory. A summary of the specimens examined during the year is:—

Throat swabs	53
Sputum	49
Pus smears	44
Eye discharges	3
Blood smears	10
Blood (Widal)	3
Urine	92
Cerebro-spinal fluid	4
Animal tissues, etc	69
Pathological examinations	31
Pleural fluid	3
Faeces	5
Water	6
Milk deposits	47
Milk for bacterial contents	64
Milk for T.B.	47
Other specimens	3

No artificial immunisation against diphtheria or scarlet fever has been carried out during the year by the Local Authority, but a scheme for diphtheria immunisation is in course of preparation.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED
DURING THE YEAR 1940.

DISEASE.	Number of Cases Notified.													Total cases remov ed to Hospi tal from Dist.
	Ttl. Cses At all ages	At Ages – Years.												
		Un- der 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over	
Scarlet Fever	12	...	1	...	1	2	3	...	1	3	1	...	...	2
Diphtheria	3	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	2
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Measles	39	4	2	3	4	6	17	2	...	1	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	51	4	6	4	13	11	12	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	27	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	3	2	7	11	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	5
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	13	7	2
Totals.....	167	13	9	8	18	20	32	6	3	13	5	22	18	15

For comparative purposes the following table shows figures supplied by the Registrar-General on the attack rate of certain notifiable diseases throughout the country and those for Nelson :—

	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census	London.	Nelson.
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RATES PER 1000 CIVILIAN POPULATION.

Notifications					
Enteric Fever	0.07	0.06	0.10	0.06	0.03
Cerebro-spinal Fever	0.32	0.33	0.29	0.28	0.09
Scarlet Fever	1.63	1.53	1.57	0.82	0.35
Whooping Cough	1.34	1.29	1.35	0.22	1.52
Diphtheria	1.16	1.29	1.21	0.61	0.09
Erysipelas	0.35	0.36	0.30	0.35	0.68
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	10.24	9.23	9.99	1.78	0.80

RATES PER 1000 TOTAL BIRTHS (LIVE AND STILL).

Maternal Mortality					
Puerperal Infection	0.52	—	—	—	—
Others	1.64	—	—	—	5.95
Total	2.16	—	—	—	5.95
Notifications					
Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia ...	11.96	13.90	9.73	13.30	5.95

DISINFECTION.

Following infectious disease 48 rooms were disinfected during the year by means of formalin vapour and spray. Articles of bedding, clothing, etc. are disinfected in a steam disinfector situated at the Cleansing Department; 255 articles of wearing apparel, 1386 articles of bedding and 26 miscellaneous articles have been disinfected; 354 rooms were fumigated for all purposes.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and mortality during 1940.

Age Period, Years	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
1—5	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
5—10	2	—	1	3	—	—	—	—
10—15	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	1	2	1	—	1	—	—
20—25	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	—
25—35	1	1	2	—	—	1	—	—
35—45	4	2	—	—	3	2	—	—
45—55	5	2	—	—	2	1	—	—
55—65	2	3	1	—	1	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	—
Totals...	16	10	9	7	7	6	2	—
	26		16		13		2	

There were 15 deaths attributable to tuberculosis, 3 being non-notified cases, in two of which the deaths were inward transfers (a death in the one case from pulmonary tuberculosis in a person at a Public Assistance Institution and the other from tuberculous meningitis in a child in hospital) and one where long-standing tuberculous disease of the spine (a contributory cause of death) was regarded as reasonable grounds for the assumption by the doctor that notification had already been sent.

There is no evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS.

No action has been necessary under these Regulations with reference to tubercular employees in the milk trade.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SECTION 172.

No action has been necessary under this section relative to the compulsory removal to hospital of patients suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis.

PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS.

Dr. MacPhee, the Consultant Tuberculosis Officer for this area, has kindly supplied the following particulars of the work carried out in Nelson dealing with tuberculosis during 1940 :—

The Lancashire County Council Tuberculosis Dispensary is situated at 64 Carr Road, Nelson. It is open for insured and non-insured persons alike. The Consultant Tuberculosis Officer is in attendance on Tuesday afternoons at 12.30 o'clock and on Friday mornings by appointment.

NOTIFICATIONS OF PERSONS SUFFERING FROM TUBERCULOSIS IN THE BOROUGH OF NELSON IN 1940.

	Pulmonary.	Non-pulmonary.	Total
Form " A " (new cases)	26	16	42
Number of new patients examined at the Dispensary ...			138
Number of new patients examined at their homes			11
Total			149

Of the total of 149 patients, 31 were found to be suffering from Tuberculosis in one form or another, and 118 were discharged after varying periods of observation, as non-tuberculous.

No. of re-examinations of " old cases "	256
No. of patients who received treatment in Sanatoria (" early cases ")	16
No. of patients who received treatment in Pulmonary Hospitals (advanced cases)	8
No. of patients who received treatment in General and Special Hospitals (surgical cases)	15
No. of patients who received special treatment (Artificial Pneumothorax 2)	3
No. of X-ray examinations made	181

Details are appended of the work in Nelson of the Tuberculosis Health Visitor, Nurse H. M. Alcock :—

No. of primary visits to patients	42
No. of " following-up " visits to patients	922
Total	964

During 1940 the following number of cases were written off as recovered.

Pulmonary.	Non-pulmonary.	Total.
4	6	10

7.—MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

This work is carried out by the Local Authority under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health. Three Health Visitors are employed, two whole-time and one part-time the latter's work being divided equally between the Infant Welfare and the School Medical Service.

The following figures refer to the work of the Maternity and Child Welfare Services :—

No. of births in area notified under the Notification of Births

Act, 1907 :—

Live Births	310
Still Births	9
Total	319
Notified by Midwives (including Maternity Home)	307
Notified by Doctors and Parents	12
No of Confinements Primiparæ	167
No. of Confinements Multiparæ	149
Twin Births notified	3
Percentage of multiple births	0.94
No. of illegitimate births notified	14
Percentage of illegitimate births to total births notified	4.4
Percentage of still births to total births notified	2.8
Failure to notify birth	Nil
Number of instances in which services of Consultant Obstetrician were requested	14
No. of cases in which nursing assistance was requested	Nil
No. of births by Cæsarean Section	4

Number of visits paid during the year by the Health Visitors :—

To expectant mothers—First visits	76
Total visits	210
To children under 1 year of age—First visits	317
Total visits	3342
To children between the age of 1 and 5 years—	
No. visited	1073
Total visits	3198
Average number of visits per infant	10.6
Average number of visits per child	3.0
Average number of visits per mother	2.7
Number of ineffectual calls	620

Number of special visits made for assistance in cases of Ophthalmia	43
Number of special visits made for nursing assistance in other cases	297
Number of cases attended by Registered Midwives practising in the area during the year	74
County Council Midwives	45
Midwives at the Maternity Home	29
Number of cases attended by Registered Midwives as Maternity Nurses at the Maternity Home	146
Number of cases attended by other Midwives on the register but not practising as Midwives and acting as Maternity Nurses	99
Number of confinements attended by Medical Practitioners	245
Percentage attended by Medical Practitioners	76.8

FIRST METHOD OF FEEDING INFANTS BORN DURING YEAR.

Breast.	Bottle.	Breast and Bottle.	Spoon.	Not fed.
81.3%	9.0%	6.1%	1.6%	2.0%

INFANT WELFARE CENTRE.

The Infant Welfare Centre is situated at No. 9, Carr Road, Nelson, and is open on Wednesday afternoons from 2-0 p.m.

Number of meetings held	46
Total number of attending infants	276
Total number of attending children	419
Total number of attending expectant mothers	30
Total number of attendances :—Infants	2116
Children	836
Expectant Mothers	55
Average attendance per session—	
Infants	47.0
Children	18.4
Expectant Mothers	1.2
Average number of attendances per	
Infant	7.8
Child	2.0
Mother	1.9

A summary of the attendances of infants and expectant mothers from the various wards of the Borough gives the following figures:—

Bradley	Central	Clover Hill	Marsden	Netherfield
94	50	68	78	98
Southfield	Walverden	Whitefield	Out of Borough	
84	125	82	13	
Number of Infants for whom consultations were requested				
				181
Number of Children for whom consultations were requested				
				283
Number of Consultations for:—Infants				
				280
				Children
				448
				Ante-natal Mothers
				17
				Total
				1209

MATERNITY HOME.

The Maternity Home is situated in Netherfield Road, and with the present accommodation, was opened on May 28th, 1921.

The fee for admission to the Home is £2-2-0 per week for residents and £3-3-0 per week for non-residents.

In necessitous cases, resident in Nelson, patients are admitted free or at a reduced fee.

Total number of admissions from May, 1921, to 31st

December, 1940	3534
Average number for the last 10 years	176
Number of admissions in 1939	127

Particulars of the work carried out at the Home during 1940 are:—

Number of admissions	177
Number of patients who agreed to pay full fee	134
„ applications for reduced fee	43
„ patients who were admitted at a reduced fee	19
„ „ „ free	21
„ admissions of non-residents of Nelson	19
„ births—Live	169
„ Still-births	6
„ twin births	1

„ abortions	Nil
„ patients seen by the Consultant Obstetrician	3
Average number of occupied beds per day	6.7
Total number of patient days	2437

The following is a list of admissions to the Home per month for the year:—

Month.	Number admitted.	Number of Births Live	Still	Number of Deaths Mothers	Deaths Infants
January	16	16	—		1
February	11	10	—	—	—
March	12	11	1	1	—
April	11	12	—	—	—
May	18	17	1	—	1
June	15	15	—	—	—
July	17	15	2	—	—
August	17	15	1	—	—
September	19	19	1	—	—
October	11	11	—	—	—
November	13	12	—	—	—
December	17	16	—	—	—
Totals	177	169	6	1	2

The one maternal death was due to uterine haemorrhage and placenta praevia, and both infant deaths were due to prematurity and occurred shortly after birth.

Number of births to Nelson residents in Maternity Home	156
Percentage related to total births	46.3

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

The arrangements for ante-natal care are as outlined in last years report. The following figures relate to the work of the Ante-natal Clinic during 1940:—

No. of Ante-natal mothers who attended for consultations	179
„ attendances by Ante-natal mothers	1337
„ ante-natal mothers found to require treatment	85
„ Ante-natal mothers advised to obtain medical advice (included in the above)	48
„ Ante-natal mothers recommended for X-ray diagnosis (included in the above)	—
„ Ante-natal mothers advised to obtain dental treatment (included in the above)	30

„ Ante-natal mothers who were admitted to the Home for special treatment following medical advice	6
„ Ante-natal mothers for whom Hospital treatment was advised	2
„ Ante-natal mothers advised special treatment at home	32

DENTAL SCHEME.

Following consultation at the Ante-natal Clinic, 30 mothers were advised to obtain dental treatment and only two received treatment under the Authority's scheme.

HOME HELPS.

Six applications were made, 5 of which were granted (four free and one at half-cost).

PROVISION OF MILK FOR MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN.

Under the scheme administered by the Ministry of Food, at the end of the year some 180 gallons of milk were being supplied daily (free or at reduced cost) to expectant and nursing mothers and children under five years of age, representing some 1400 individuals. Before this scheme superseded previous arrangements 2608 gallons of liquid milk were provided by the Local Authority. It was found that there was no demand for National Dried Milk, possibly due to the fact that the more popular proprietary brands could be obtained at cost-price at the Clinic; such sales amounted to 2915 lbs.

No. in receipt of free milk 1st January, 1940	102
„ „ 20th July, 1940	55
„ „ during the period	111
Daily supply of milk at 1st January, 1940	128 pints
„ „ at 20th July, 1940	74½ „

ORTHOPÆDIC CLINIC.

The Orthopædic Clinic is held weekly on Fridays at the School Clinic in Carr Road. The scheme is run in conjunction with the Local Education Committee, the Lancashire County Council and the Colne Local Authority.

The following figures refer to the children who have been in attendance following a recommendation from the Infant Welfare Centre,

No. of times Clinic was open during the year	33
„ infants who attended during the year	49
„ attendances made by these infants	104
„ cases on the books at 31st December, 1939	39
„ new cases admitted during the year	37
„ cases discharged during the year	15
„ cases on the books at 31st December, 1940	61
„ cases transferred from Infant Welfare Services to School Medical Services (included in number discharged shown above)	3
„ infants under treatment at Biddulph at 31st December, 1939	Nil
„ infants sent to Biddulph Hospital during the year ...	2
„ infants under treatment at Biddulph at 31st December, 1940	1

The defects necessitating orthopædic treatment in the 76 cases on the books during the year are :—

Defects of the Spine	2
Defects of the Lower Limbs	60
General defect or deformity which may be due to rickets, infantile paralysis, etc.	14

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

Under the Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations a Consultant is appointed, hospital provision and laboratory facilities are available, and an arrangement with the District Nursing Association provides for nursing assistance on request.

Two cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified during the year. In neither case was any of the above facilities requested.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Hospital treatment is available when necessary for cases of ophthalmia neonatorum and nursing assistance provided by an arrangement with the District Nursing Association.

Four cases of ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified during the year, the vision being unimpaired in each case. In two of these cases nursing assistance was provided.



Borough of Nelson.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Annual Report
of the
School Medical Officer
for 1940.

R. G. MARKHAM, M.B., D.P.H.,
School Medical Officer.

BOROUGH OF NELSON

School Medical Service Sub-Committee.

ALDERMAN A. SMITH, J.P., C.C., Chairman.

THE MAYOR (ALDERMAN W. BANNISTER).

ALDERMAN H. W. THROUP.

,, J. ROBINSON.

,, R. BLAND.

,, R. WINTERBOTTOM.

COUNCILLOR H. DEWHURST.

,, J. WIDDUP.

MRS. S. J. COOPER, J.P.

MR. J. HAYDOCK.

MR. W. J. THROUP, C.C.

Officers and Staff of the

School Medical Service Department.

School Medical Officer	R. G. MARKHAM, M.B., D.P.H.	†
Dentist	MR. THOMAS JACKSON, L.D.S.	
Nurses	MRS. E. A. SAVILLE-SMITH, MISS L. P. SPARKS & MRS. A. H. FRANKLAND*	
Senior Clerk	A. WILDMAN*.	
Junior Clerks	J. W. TATTERSALL†, L. HOWARTH.	

†Died 16th February, 1941. *Part time. †On active service.

List of Schools in the Borough.

Secondary Day School Oxford Road.

SENIOR.		Average No. on Rolls, December, 1940.	
	Accommodation.		
Bradley C.	320	...	246
Edge End C.	480	...	235
Walverden C.	480	...	254
Whitefield C.	320	...	181

JUNIOR MIXED.			
Bradshaw Street C. (A)	400	...	268
Bradshaw Street C. (B)	350	...	207
Great Marsden	264	...	269
Leeds Road C. of E.	300	...	231
Little Marsden	105	...	54
Lomeshaye C.	200	...	163

R.C. MIXED.			
Holy Saviour's	210	...	122
St. George's	88	...	80
St. Joseph's	211	...	98

OPEN AIR.			
Camp School	40	...	40

INFANTS.			
Bradley C.	250	...	154
Bradshaw Street C.	350	...	171
Great Marsden	130	...	115
Holy Saviour's R.C.	95	...	47
Little Marsden	65	...	73
St. George's R.C.	92	...	33
St. Joseph's R.C.	150	...	41
Walverden C.	250	...	168
Whitefield C.	300	...	129

EVACUATED SCHOOL CHILDREN.

Of a total of 739 Bradford school children evacuated under the Government Scheme between September and the end of 1939 only 279 were known to be in Nelson on 1st January, 1940, and by the 31st December, 1940, this number had dwindled to 35. 89 privately evacuated school children were resident in Nelson at the end of December, 1940.

SCHOOL MEDICAL DEPARTMENT,
11 CARR ROAD,
NELSON.

NOVEMBER, 1941.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for 1940 which deals with the work of the School Medical Department under the supervision of my predecessor, the late Dr. R. G. Markham, who died in February, 1941, and to whom reference is made overleaf.

The influx of large numbers of evacuees into the town at the beginning of the year added considerably to Dr. Markham's duties and prevented progress in the preparation of the report but in the interval between his death and my taking up duties in August, Mr. J. W. Ingham, Senior Sanitary Inspector, being conversant with the details and scope of the school medical service, had undertaken the drafting of the report: his enterprise and industry is gratefully acknowledged. The presentation of the report by me is therefore largely formal in that both the execution of the work referred to and its analysis have been the labour of others.

The report has been considerably abbreviated in accordance with the Board of Education's instructions. I wish to express thanks to the Chairman, the Members of the Education Committee, the Director of Education and School Teachers for their valuable co-operation and to the Public Health and School Medical Staff for their faithful service.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. J. ROBERTS.

School Medical Officer.

OBITUARY.

The late Dr. R. G. Markham was the first whole-time School Medical Officer to this Authority and at the time of his death had completed 20 years' service in that capacity. During his term of service many changes occurred including the re-organisation of schools and their extension; an Open Air School, a Nursery School and a Camp School were built and Dr. Markham took the keenest interest in these innovations. The scheme for the provision of milk to school children received his full support and his decided views of the quality of the milk to be provided was largely responsible for the decision to supply tuberculin-tested milk to scholars.

The work he carried out as School Medical Officer requires no emphasis : a perusal of his annual reports bears testimony to the zeal he showed in dealing with all matters pertaining to the health and welfare of Nelson school children. His services were appreciated by the parents and guardians of the children over whom he exercised medical supervision ; his advice was sought and valued and his friendly manner gained him the confidence and affection of the school children.

Dr. Markham frequently expressed his appreciation of the co-operation of parents and teachers with the school medical staff and the support of the Chairman and members of the Education Committee and officials of the Education Department.

During 1940 the death of Dr. Charles Ritchie occurred; he was Dr. Markham's predecessor as School Medical Officer and, although holding a part-time appointment only, was the first Acting School Medical Officer of Nelson ; it was he who laid the foundations of the school medical services in the town.

ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

(See Table I, page 49).

1180 routine inspections were made during the year, a total of 409 defects in 178 children being discovered of which 203 were referred for treatment and 206 for observation only.

The 203 defects referred for treatment are summarised as follows :

DEFECT.	Number	Percentage
Nose and throat	64	31.5
Defective vision (including squint) ...	40	19.7
External eye	3	1.5
Defective hearing	25	12.3
Other ear disease	2	1.0
Enlarged cervical glands (non-tubercular)	16	7.8
Skin disease	10	4.9
Lung conditions.....	6	3.0
Heart or circulatory system	6	3.0
Nervous system	6	3.0
Deformities	11	5.4
Defective speech	2	1.0
Other defects or diseases	12	5.9

NUTRITION.

(See Table II, page 49).

SPECIAL INSPECTIONS.

1056 such inspections were made during the year, mainly at the School Clinic, and 630 defects were found which required treatment and 13 requiring observation.

RE-INSPECTIONS.

664 re-inspections were carried out during the year following routine or special inspections made in 1939 ; it was found that of 1052 defects noted at the previous routine inspections and special inspections 708 (67.3%) had been cured, 259 (24.6%) improved and 85 (8.1%) were either unchanged or the defects not re-examined.

NURSES' " FOLLOW-UP " VISITS.

Where the parent or guardian was absent at the routine medical inspection the school nurse visited the home of the child who required treatment in order to urge the necessity for carrying out the recommendation ; such home visits are also made on failure to attend for treatment. 682 home visits were made to 641 homes.

UNCLEANLINESS.

(See Table V, page 51).

	Number Examined		Number Clean		Few Nits		Many Nits		Pediculi
Boys	1652	...	1628	...	2	...	17	...	5
Girls	1599	...	1452	...	66	...	52	...	29
Total	3251	...	3080	...	68	...	69	...	34

A summary of the percentage figures for the past three years is :

Year	Few Nits			Many Nits			Pediculi	
	Boys	Girls		Boys	Girls		Boys	Girls
1938 ...	0.50	4.17	...	0.39	2.95	...	0.28	0.81
1939 ...	0.25	3.03	...	0.61	3.49	...	0.06	1.36
1940 ...	0.12	4.12	...	1.03	3.26	...	0.30	1.81

SCABIES.

No case of scabies was found during routine medical inspections but 17 cases were discovered at special inspections as against 4 in 1939.

TREATMENT OF DEFECTS.

The School Clinic was open on 301 days during the year with an average daily attendance of 30 and a total number of attendances of 9098. At the beginning of the year 142 defects were under treatment and during the year 1473 defects were admitted and 1550 discharged thus leaving 65 defects under treatment at the end of the year.

A summary of the 1615 defects treated is as follows :

Ringworm of scalp	1
Scabies	23
Impetigo	136
Other skin disease	168
Minor ear defects (including defective hearing) ...	101
Defective vision	181
Minor eye defects (excluding visual defects)	90
Disease of nose and throat	167
Enlarged glands (non-tubercular)	43
Disease of the lungs	47
Disease of the nervous system	36
Minor accidents, etc.	235
Debility	169
Infectious or contagious disease	62
Other disease or defect	156

120 children with defective vision were refracted (111 at the school clinic and 9 privately), spectacles being prescribed in 88 instances at the clinic and 87 pairs of spectacles obtained.

836 children were tested by audiometer, 21 proving to have defective hearing in one ear and 10 in both ears. Catarrh or wax were found to be the commonest causes of deafness and following treatment cure or considerable improvement resulted. Diastolisation has been carried out as hitherto, 9 children being under treatment at the beginning of the year and 36 new cases being referred for treatment during the year. In 32 children treatment was discontinued, the particular defect being cured or considerably improved, thus leaving 13 children under treatment at the end of the year. The following shows the nature of the defect and the number treated :

Adenoids	8
Catarrhal deafness	3
Defective hearing	6
Nasal catarrh	12
Nasal obstruction	10
Highly arched palate	1
Tonsils and adenoids	1
Post operative (tonsils and adenoids)	1
Adenoids and glands	1
Enlarged glands	1
Retracted tympanum	1

ORTHOPAEDICS.

The following details of the work of the Orthopaedic Clinic refer only to Nelson elementary school children :

Clinic sessions	31
Children on the books 31/12/39	53
Cases admitted during the year	17
(new admissions—14, transferred from Infant Welfare Centre—3).	
Cases discharged during the year	22
Cases on the books 31/12/40	48
Children on books who did not attend during 1940	9
Children in attendance during 1940	61
Attendances made by these children	168
Average attendance per session	5.4
Average attendance per child for the year	2.7
School children in hospital (Biddulph Grange Orthopaedic Hospital) at 31/12/39	1
School children admitted to hospital during the year	1
School children discharged from hospital during the year	2
School children in hospital at 31/12/40	None

OPEN AIR SCHOOL.

The premises built originally as a Camp School at White-hough have been adapted as a Residential Open Air School. Accommodation is provided for 40 scholars (20 boys and 20 girls) and 40 children were in residence on 31st December, 1939. During 1940 41 children were admitted and 43 discharged thus leaving 38 children (19 boys and 19 girls) in residence at the school at 31st December, 1940; 5 cases were discharged at the parent's request.

Periodic medical inspections were carried out by the School Medical Officer, 14 routine inspections and 110 re-inspections being made; in addition special visits were made to see children who were indisposed and in all 74 special examinations were made.

14 children developed illness necessitating a stay in bed of more than 48 hours, but in only two cases was it found necessary for a child to be discharged for treatment. No case of infectious disease occurred at the school.

A school nurse attends daily from Monday to Friday when the school is in session, but special visits have been made at week-ends ; her work included the carrying out of treatment for 224 defects (mainly of a minor nature) in respect of 69 children.

NURSERY SCHOOL.

The premises originally built and used as the Day Open Air School and situated at the top of Walton Lane have been used throughout the year as a nursery school. At the beginning of the year, following the transference of the children from the official Nursery School to the former Day Open Air School, only a limited number of children (34) was enrolled but later this number was increased to 78. 148 children attended at some period throughout the year and of these 39 were under 3 years of age. The total number of attendances from 1st January to 31st December was 21,648.

A periodic medical inspection has been carried out at the school during which 97 children were examined. In addition the school nurse attends twice weekly for inspection and treatment of minor defects. The facilities at the School Clinic are available to nursery scholars.

Medical inspection of the children revealed 54 defects of which 50 required treatment and 4 observation ; the treatment of 31 defects in 22 children was carried out by the school nurse at school.

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN.

At the end of 1940 the number of children classified as exceptional was as follows :

Mentally Defective.....	Attending Special School	8
	Attending Elementary School	2
Partially Blind	Attending Certified School	2
Partially Deaf	Attending Special Deaf School	2
Epileptic (not severe)	Attending Elementary School	1
Heart Disease	Attending Elementary School	5
	Not attending school	1
Crippled Children	Attending Elementary School	8
	At Hospital or Institution	1
	At no school or Institution	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	At Sanatorium	1
	At no school or institution	1
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	Attending Elementary School	17
	At Open Air School	1
	At Hospital or Sanatorium	2
Delicate Children	At Residential Open Air School	38
Multiple Defects	At no school or institution	3

There are no evacuee children in the above group. The Special Schools for the Partially Blind and for Deaf Children are at Burnley : the Mentally Defective children attend daily at the Special School at Grove House, Barrowford—premises which have been adapted to provide a Residential School for Bradford Mentally Defective children who were evacuated on the outbreak of war.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS.

73 boys were granted certificates for part-time employment during the year following medical examination, the nature of the employment being delivery of milk, 24 ; delivery of papers, 46; others, 3.

CONVALESCENT HOME.

By the courtesy of the Managers and Secretary of the Thursby Convalescent Home, Lytham St. Annes, 45 girls and 38 boys have had the benefit of a recuperative holiday at this Home during the year. For many years this privilege has been extended to Nelson school children and has been greatly appreciated. Convalescent children are allowed a 2 weeks stay.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The incidence of infectious disease has been relatively slight during the most of the year except in the closing months when whooping cough and measles became prevalent ; there had however been sporadic cases of these diseases throughout the year and 38 cases were reported in which the patient was in attendance at school the particulars of which are :—

Measles	25
Whooping Cough (including 8 at Nursery School)	27
Scarlet Fever (including 1 at Nursery School)	4
Diphtheria	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	1

Sporadic cases of chicken pox and infective parotitis have occurred,

PROVISION OF MILK AND MEALS FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The provision of milk for school children has been maintained throughout the year. Figures kindly supplied by the Director of Education show that the weekly average number of children taking milk during the year was 2,776. This is 85.5% of the average number of children on the school rolls ; in 1939 the average number of children taking milk was 82.9%.

The number of children receiving the milk free during 1940 was approximately 10.9%. In 1939 the corresponding figure was 15.6%. A total of 820,569 bottles have been supplied during the year, an increase of 46,966 bottles on the number supplied in the previous year. In gallons the amount consumed during 1940 was approximately 34,190.

59 children were in receipt of free meals at the commencement of the year. By the end of the year the number had been reduced to 39. In all, 97 children have received meals (all dinners) at some period of the year and the actual number of dinners provided amount to 10,276. Compared with the previous year, this is a reduction of 154 children having school meals and a reduction of 20,101 dinners.

SWIMMING BATHS.

The number of attendances made by the elementary school children at the Public Baths during 1940 was 26,748.

School Medical Inspection Returns

TABLE I.

MEDICAL INSPECTIONS OF CHILDREN ATTENDING PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Number of Inspections in the prescribed Groups :

		Number requiring treatment
Entrants	322	51 (15.84%)
Second Age Group	459	82 (17.86%)
Third Age Group	399	45 (11.28%)
Total ...	1180	178 (15.08%)

Number of other Routine Inspections ...

Grand Total ... 1180

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections and

Re-inspections 1720

TABLE II.

Classification of the Nutrition of Children Inspected during the Year in the Routine Age Groups.

AGE GROUPS	Number of Children Inspected	A (Excellent)		B (Normal)		C (Slightly subnormal)		D (Bad)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Entrants	322	...	...	316	98.14	6	1.86	...	...
Second Age Group	459	3	0.66	448	97.60	8	1.74	...	...
Third Age Group	399	3	0.75	385	96.49	11	2.76	...	...
Other Routine Inspect's	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total.....	1180	6	0.51	1149	97.37	25	2.12	...	...

The figures for 1939 were : A—0.29%, B—99.13%, C—0.58%,
D—None.

TABLE III.

GROUP I.—Treatment of Minor Ailments (excluding Uncleanliness for which see Table V).

Total Number of Defects treated during the year under the Authority's Scheme ... 1670

GROUP II.—Treatment of Defective Vision and Squint (excluding Minor Eye Defects treated as Minor Ailments—Group I.).

	No. of Defects dealt with		
	Under the Authority's Scheme	Other-wise	Total
Errors of Refraction (including Squint) (Operations for squint should be recorded separately in the body of the School Medical Officer's Report)	111	9	120
Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I.) ... ..	...	...	...
Total	111	9	120
No. of Children for whom spectacles were			
(a) Prescribed	88	6	94
(b) Obtained	87	6	93

GROUP III.—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

NUMBER OF DEFECTS.			
Received Operative Treatment.			
Under the Authority's Scheme in Clinic or Hospital	By Private Practitioner or Hospital apart from the Authority's Scheme	Received other forms of Treatment	Total number Treated
...	10	154	164

TABLE IV.

Dental Inspection and Treatment.

(1) Number of children inspected by the Dentist.

(a) Routine age-groups.	{	Aged 5	.....	—
		6	.....	301
		7	.....	358
		8	.....	389
		9	.....	412
		10	.....	404
		11	.....	339
		12	.....	297
		13	.....	356
		14	.....	—
		Total	.....	2856
(b) Specials				—
(c) Total (Routine and Specials)				2856
(2) Number found to require treatment				1966
(3) Number actually treated				1075
(4) Attendances made by children for treatment				1075
(5) Half-days devoted to :—				
		Inspection	62	
		Treatment	120	182
(6) Fillings :		Permanent Teeth	134	
		Temporary Teeth	8	142
(7) Extractions :		Permanent Teeth	217	
		Temporary Teeth	1672	1889
(8) Administrations of general anæsthetics for extractions				None
(9) Other Operations :		Permanent Teeth	203	
		Temporary Teeth	461	664

TABLE V.

Verminous Condition.

(i) Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses	.....	4
(ii) Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses	.....	11243
(iii) Number of individual children found unclean	.....	171
(iv) Number of individual children cleansed under Section 87 (2) and (3) of the Education Act, 1921	.....	Nil
(v) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken :—		
(a) Under the Education Act, 1921	.....	Nil
(b) Under School Attendance Byelaws	.....	Nil

TABLE VI.

BLIND AND DEAF CHILDREN.

	At a Public Elementary School	At an Institution other than a Special School	At no school or institution	Total not receiving suitable education
Blind Children	Nil	No.	No.	No.
Deaf Children	Nil	No.	No.	No.

TABLE VII.

Monthly Summary of Work at School Clinic.

MONTH.	No. of defects under treatment at beginning of month	No. of defects admitted during month	No. of defects discharged during month	No. of defects under treatment at end of month	No. of visits by children to Clinic	No. of homes visited by Nurse	No. of visits to homes	No. of pairs of Spectacles supplied or ordered	No. of Examinations by Nurse at School
January	142	115	64	193	679	1	2	10	1108
February	193	117	164	146	898	6	6	19	1538
March	146	142	96	192	710	31	35	2	90
April	192	171	130	233	1004	102	110	17	1444
May	233	163	186	180	1091	156	167	3	366
June	180	89	153	141	725	26	29	15	950
July	141	108	58	191	458	1	2	6	1492
August	191	117	95	212	849	42	46	13	1280
September	212	84	125	177	502	38	40	6	798
October	177	153	158	172	829	41	41	7	1790
November	172	120	138	154	732	36	40	10	140
December	154	94	183	65	641	161	164	9	252
TOTALS	2133	1473	1550	2046	9098	641	682	117	11243

Average Attendance per day ... 30.13.

TABLE VIII.

Anthropometric Table showing Average Height and Weight
of children examined at various ages.

BOYS			GIRLS	
AGE	HEIGHT in inches	WEIGHT in pounds	HEIGHT in inches	WEIGHT in pounds
3 Years...	—	—	—	—
4 "	40.22	38.20	37.84	38.85
5 "	44.98	46.19	43.16	42.20
6 "	45.80	48.31	47.31	48.26
7 "	48.65	53.32	47.95	51.07
8 "	50.02	58.70	49.79	57.24
9 "	51.66	61.49	51.98	58.48
10 "	53.25	68.66	54.20	70.17
11 "	54.67	74.33	55.59	74.85
12 "	56.94	80.09	58.80	85.09
13 "	59.03	90.56	60.05	98.77
14 "	58.94	90.93	60.99	98.15

TABLE IX.

Condition of Children Examined by Nurses at School.
Including 140 Evacuated Children.

Number of Surprise Visits paid to Schools ... 81.

		No. of Exam'ations	Number Examined	Clean	Few Nits	Many Nits	Pedi- culi
BOYS	Infant Departments	1453	420	415	...	4	1
	Junior "	2255	635	623	1	9	2
	Senior "	1539	449	444	1	2	2
	Mixed "	517	148	146	...	2	...
GIRLS	Infant Departments	1448	441	396	26	12	7
	Junior "	2194	619	563	20	22	14
	Senior "	1387	416	385	12	14	5
	Mixed "	450	123	108	8	4	3
	Totals	11243	3251	3080	68	69	34

TABLE X.

Return of Medical Inspections for purposes of Employment
of Children and Young Persons, 1940.

	Number Examined	Number of Certificates Granted	Nature of Employment		
			Delivery of Milk	Delivery of News- papers	Other Employ- ment
Boys	73	73	24	46	3
Girls .....	...	...	...	...	...
Total...	73	73	24	46	3



Borough of Nelson.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Annual Report
of the
School Dental Clinic
For the Year 1940.

THOMAS JACKSON, L.D.S.,
Dental Surgeon.

SCHOOL CLINIC,
11 CARR ROAD,
NELSON.

31ST DECEMBER, 1940.

To the Members of the Nelson Education Authority.

I have the honour to present a condensed report of the work done in 1940 (see also Table IV) and I have adopted the usual lines, i.e. giving every child of approximately 6 years of age and upwards until leaving school the opportunity of being dentally inspected and treated. The trek-back of evacuees from the town caused some interference with the work, fewer being inspected and treated than in 1939; despite time spent in tracing transfers, removals and evacuees it was, all things considered, not a poor year.

During the year I inspected 2,856 children (171 fewer than in 1939) in 898 of whom the dentition was such as not to require treatment. The indifference of the senior scholars to dental care still prevails; many children (probably 90%) who report their intention of attending their own dentist do not seek treatment at all. Again there are those who, having attended the dental clinic once, consider that they have done all that is necessary, never realising that to keep teeth in good condition constant supervision and attention must be exercised. There are too many also who value extraction more than filling and preserving the teeth and who seem to think that a visit to a dentist should be made only for the relief of toothache.

I am convinced that through the influence of the Nursery School and Infant Schools more and more attention is being paid to the cleaning of the teeth, with invaluable results.

I wish to express my great appreciation of the assistance of school teaching staffs and school nurses.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

THOS. JACKSON, L.D.S.,

School Dentist.

TABLE A.—Results of Dental Inspection.

Age group	Number inspected	Requiring no dental treatment	Requiring urgent dental treatment	Requiring dental treatment
6—13	2856	898	490	1468

TABLE B.—Dental Treatment.

Years	Extractions		Fillings		Dressings		Extract'ns under local An'esth'tic
	Tem'ry	Perm'nt	Tem'ry	Permn't	Tem'ry	Permn't	
6	251	...	7	...	262	2	18
7	285	3	...	7	102	10	30
8	361	6	1	16	66	26	53
9	337	22	...	25	25	37	43
10	235	36	...	27	4	55	50
11	152	41	...	14	...	24	56
12	40	57	...	21	2	22	53
13	11	52	...	24	...	27	48
Total	1672	217	8	134	461	203	351

TABLE C.—Percentages of Attendances for Treatment.

	1940	1939
Total average attendance at Clinic	37.66	42.21
Sound Dentition	31.83	30.02
Reported as visiting own dentist, refused treatment, absent through illness, left school, untraced, etc.	30.51	27.77

TABLE D.

NURSERY SCHOOL. (3 visits).

Number Inspected	156
Sound Dentition	120
Number Treated	22
Extractions	17
Fillings	10
Dressings	42

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